

Letter from Charles J. Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, January 11, 1917

AMERICAN SECURITY AND TRUST COMPANY INCORPORATED UNDER ACT OF CONGRESS OCTOBER, 1890 CAPITAL AND SURPLUS OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT CHARLES J. BELL \$5,000,000 PRESIDENT CORCORAN THOM, VICE PRESIDENT HENRY F. BLOUNT, VICE PRESIDENT H. S. REESIDE, VICE PRESIDENT JAMES F. HOOD, SECRETARY CHARLES E. HOWE, TREASURER ALFRED B. LEET, TRUST OFFICER WILLIAM W. KECK, ASST. TREASURER DAVID N. HOUSTON. ASST. TRUST OFFICER JOHN G. HOLDEN, AUDITOR ALFRED C. FLATHER, ASST. TRUST OFFICER 7 **WASHINGTON, D. C.** January 11, 1917 Dr. Alexander Graham Bell 1331 Connecticut Avenue City My dear Alec:

My Secretary has just told me that you wanted me to write you a letter in regard to the conference I had with Mr. McCurdy:

I presume what you want is the plan which he had outlined for the purchase of the A.E.A. patents. He made no actual proposition but suggested that if you are willing to take about \$4500. in cash, to cover the cost of the money which had been advanced since the A.E.A. had ceased doing active work, and would accept \$40,000. in par value of the stock of the Curtiss Company, he could probably make a deal. My counter proposition was, the same amount in cash and some proper form of obligation from the Curtiss Company for \$75,000., which was, as I understood from you, the amount of money which you and Mabel had put into the A.E.A. Judging from the balance sheets I saw of the Curtiss Company I was not favorably impressed and could not see any permanent value in their shares, and I believed it was wiser to take a deferred obligation of the Company itself, rather than shares of stock in it.

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I am in a great rush to-day, but if there is anything further you want let me know.

Yours faithfully